

## TIPS FOR PARENTS ABOUT YOUR BABY'S SHOTS

Babies need vaccinations or “shots” to protect against 11 dangerous diseases, such as measles and polio. Each year, children who are not fully protected against these diseases become sick, and some die.

You can protect your babies by taking them to a doctor/health care provider or clinic for their shots. Babies need seven different kinds of shots by the time they are 2 years old. Some of the shots are given a few times. This will take about five visits to the doctor or clinic.

### Don't Miss the Chance to Protect Your Baby

- Don't wait till your baby gets sick. Take the baby to a doctor or clinic for shots. Your baby should get the first vaccination at birth.
- At each visit, discuss immunization with your doctor. Ask whether your baby is up to date.
- You will be given a card that lists the shots your baby gets. Keep this record in a safe place. Bring it with you every time you take your baby to the doctor or clinic.
- Ask the doctor/health care provider when to come again. Write it down. Make an appointment.
- If you do not have a doctor/health care provider, call the free National Immunization Program Hotline to locate the nearest place to get shots. The numbers are 1-800-232-2522 (English) and 1-800-232-0233 (Spanish).

If your baby misses some shots, it may be possible to catch up. But if you wait too long, the protection will not be as strong.

**YOU GAVE THEM LIFE. PROTECT IT.**